



August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area
Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Rockwoods Reservation

National Hunting
and Fishing Day

September 23

Making Tracks

September 2000

Volume 00, Number 09



MISSOURI CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF HEALTHY FORESTS

by Rob Emmett, Urban Forester

Have you ever spent a weekend in Missouri's Ozarks, watching deer graze in a meadow surrounded by beautiful trees and enjoying the purity of the surrounding scenery? How about a few days off relaxing at one of our lakes, taking in the breathtaking beauty of the surrounding hills and forests? Or even fishing on a quiet, shady section of the Current River on a warm summer day? Then you have experienced the results of 100 years of effort by Missouri foresters to effectively manage, protect, and conserve our natural resources for generations to come.

This year Missouri celebrates Centennial Forests, an observance that marks 100 years of modern forest conservation in the United States. Centennial Forests is a nationwide observance, held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Society of American Foresters, the national organization representing the forestry profession.

Missouri boasts more than 14 million acres of forest land, enjoyed by millions of Missourians and out-of-state visitors annually. Our forests are our state's greatest renewable resource and healthy forests provide critical economic, environmental and social benefits. Most of Missouri's recreation and tourism industry is centered in the forested regions of our state, too.

The September 2000 issue of the *Missouri Conservationist*, the Department's popular free monthly magazine, will be devoted to Centennial Forests, complete with special articles focusing on the history of forestry in Missouri, the current state of Missouri's forests, Centennial Stewardship Farm Award winners, and forestry in the twenty-first century.

In addition to the *Conservationist*, the Department's web site (www.conservation.state.mo.us/forest/) has been expanded to include information promoting Centennial Forests and includes a complete schedule of events and links to related web sites. Informative "Forestry Facts" also are being aired on radio stations statewide.

The forests we enjoy today in Missouri are much different than the forests of a century ago. The Forestry Division of the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Society of American Foresters are dedicated to protecting and managing all forest resources in Missouri. Missouri foresters are committed to promoting the need for safe, effective, and sustainable forestry practices statewide to help steward Missouri's forests to a bright and healthy future for hundreds of years to come. Centennial Forests programs will continue through November at outlets around the state.



News from
Powder Valley Conservation
 Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 (314) 301 - 1500

LOCATION: From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

AREA HOURS:

Daylight Savings Time:
 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central
 Standard Time: 8 a.m. to
 6 p.m.

NATURE CENTER

HOURS: Open all year,
 7 days a week, from 8 a.m.
 to 5 p.m.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a
 week, from 8 a.m. to
 4:30 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and
 winding creeks, three hiking
 trails (one wheelchair
 accessible). Open to
 visitors free of charge.

MEET YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATION AGENT

Saturday, September 30
 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Agents from St. Louis, St. Charles, and Jefferson counties will answer questions on where to hunt, fish, and float in and around the St. Louis region. Find areas close to home to hunt your favorite game, cast your favorite line, or just enjoy the serenity of a fall float. With October being one of the best months to fish, hunt and enjoy a float, our agents can clue you in on where to find the perfect spot. We will also have Discover Outdoor Missouri maps and individual maps of local conservation areas available that are free. Our gift shop will offer for sale the Conservation Atlas and *Missouri Ozark Waterways*, which are a must for floating Missouri streams. If you have a Heritage Card, you will receive 15% off all merchandise in our gift shop.



(No reservations required.)

RESIDENT ARTISAN

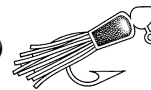
**Fly Tying
 with Tjaden Meyer**



Sunday, September 17
 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We are pleased to welcome back Tjaden Meyer and his fly tying talents. Tjaden will demonstrate the art of tying flies in the Powder Valley lobby. He will discuss the tools of the trade and unique materials to create flies that should be hung on a wall, not on a hook. Join us and learn a new hobby that can be beautiful as well as functional!

(No reservations required.)



Leaves on the Trails



Venture Crew 9300 has been marking the trails at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center so that visitors can take advantage of labels on some of the trees. As you walk one of the three paved trails, you will find white leaves pointing toward trees that have little brown and white placards. These will let you identify what kind of tree it is. Seeing young people on a trail with spray paint would have worried some people had it not been for the uniforms worn by them. One rumor was that elves had placed the leaves there.



The Venture Crew is a coed branch of the Boy Scouts of America and is sponsored by the Conservation Department. The Crew, made up of 14 to 21 year olds, enjoy hiking, camping, and other high adventure activities, as well as working with the Conservation Department. They normally meet at Powder Valley on the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

If you would like more information on the Venture Crew, contact Dave Sherman at (314) 781-3487.

-Dave Sherman, Volunteer Naturalist



This bird's wings are long in proportion to its body size. It has a five to six feet wing-span. It is two feet in length and weighs about four pounds.



**Top 10
 Amphibians
 and Reptiles**

Saturday, September 23
 7:00 p.m.

Author and retired MDC herpetologist Tom Johnson will share his favorite amphibians and reptiles with us. Afterward, Tom will be happy to sign his book, *The Amphibians and Reptiles of Missouri*. (Reservations begin September 12.)

News from

Rockwoods Reservation



This bird has a hooked beak for tearing flesh and sharp claws for seizing prey. It looks for fish on water surfaces and dives for the prey with 80 percent accuracy. It can carry fish that weigh up to four pounds.

What Is It?

Little
bluestem
grass



The Forgotten Beauty of Native Missouri

by Keri Lanning, Naturalist

Big
bluestem
grass



"There was a day when the wind blew free and strong off the Gulf of Mexico and onto the prairies. These vast grasslands offered no trees or mountains to stop the breeze and it blew from what is now Texas Northward for 2,000 miles to the arctic forests of Alberta. The wind whipped the mighty land of grass into undulating oceans of green. It blew dust into the eyes of a million buffalo and grizzled the hair of the antelope. It whistled and whirled through a thousand prairie dog towns and rocked meadowlarks on their slender perches . . . This was the Prairie."

(*Prairie Primer*,
Nichols and Entire)

When European settlers laid eyes on the Missouri landscape, they saw vast grasslands that they described with the French word for meadow, "Prairie." This amazing, and at times harsh, landscape covered more than one-third or nearly 15 million acres of Missouri. The landscape provided impressive waves of tall grasses reported to be so tall that a man traveling by horse could only see over the tops of the grasses and could become easily disoriented. There were sprinkles of colorful wildflowers almost lost in the grasses. There were also undesirable conditions such as extreme weather, multitudes of insects, and raging wildfires. As with most natural ecosystems, the settlers learned to cultivate this land into more "useful" or friendly terrain. Due to plowing, overgrazing, late haying, and control of fires only about 75,000 acres of scattered remnants still exist.

Today, landowners are realizing the benefits of native grasses and are reestablishing them throughout the state. All prairie plants including native grasses such as Big Bluestem, Indian Grass, and Switch Grass have extensive root systems which extend from five to 15 feet long! This enables the plant to be fire and drought tolerant. These roots also regenerate every three to four years and actually make a more fertile soil by the old

root system decomposing and creating great humus! Extensive root systems and standing old growth also act as great year-round protection from soil erosion. Livestock owners prefer the use of Big Bluestem, which is an excellent food source with high nutritional value enabling livestock to gain weight through the summer. Landowners also use native grasses for landscaping. Large clusters of tall grass are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also offer great habitat for wildlife.

If you would like to know more about native Missouri grasses, please stop by Rockwoods Reservation and visit our special exhibit on native grasses.

Indian Grass



2751 Glencoe Road
Wildwood, MO 63038
(636) 458 - 2236

LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. *From Hwy 40 (I-64)*, take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. *From Manchester Road*, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

AREA HOURS: Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

VISITOR CENTER

HOURS: Open seven days a week all year, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:

- ✓ Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
- ✓ 1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
- ✓ Two picnic areas (one with charcoal grills) with drinking water, tables, and toilets.
- ✓ Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.
- ✓ A crawl cave and a pond.
- ✓ Evidence of old mining operations.



How to register for a **SEPTEMBER** Program

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. Groups may inquire for separate programs. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

6 Toddling Into Nature - Nature Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
& 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) "Go take a hike!" We will do just that! Join us as we hike one of the scenic trails at Rockwoods and complete a nature scavenger hunt while learning about Missouri wildlife. Please dress for the weather.

(Reservations begin August 28.)

9 To Dye For

Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(Families) Have you seen those beautiful blankets, sweaters, and purses all made with naturally dyed fabric? Would you like to learn this ancient craft? Join us to discover what native plants can be used for dye and then make a dye bath. Please dress for the weather.
(Reservations begin September 5.)

BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

Unless otherwise specified,
all programs are one hour in length.

7 Monarchs

Thursday 10:00 a.m.
(Ages 7 - 12) Learn about these fascinating, migrating butterflies. Discover what they need to survive.
(Reservations begin August 24.)



9 Bird Feeders

Saturday 10:00 a.m.
(Ages 7 - 12) Winter is just around the corner. Come and learn about feeding birds and make a simple feeder to take home. Please meet at the pavilion.
(Reservations begin August 25.)



13 Butterflies

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(Ages 3 - 6) What is a butterfly? What do they need to live? How do they grow? Find answers to these questions and more as we investigate this amazing insect.

Follow the Herd to...

PAIRIE DAY



On Saturday, September 16, the Missouri Department of Conservation and Shaw Arboretum of the Missouri Botanical Garden will cosponsor Prairie Day at Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit.

The free event will be held in and around the Arboretum's 75-acre recreated tallgrass prairie. From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., a variety of activities and demonstrations will portray our prairie heritage. Take a naturalist-led hike through the prairie, check out the live bison herd, play pioneer games, listen to a string band and a storyteller or watch weavers, spinners, and other craft demonstrations.

Some of the exhibits include mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, and live birds of prey. Living history characters will reenact the lives of early prairie inhabitants. An archeologist and flint knapper will display and interpret artifacts of prairie life. Native plant nurseries will sell wildflowers and seeds. Hungry visitors will be able to purchase buffalo burgers, homemade baked goods, home-brewed sarsaparilla, and kettle corn.

Shaw Arboretum is located south of Interstate 44 at the Gray Summit exit. Watch for signs to the designated parking area. For more information, call (314) 301-1500.

POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314) 301 - 1500

Please limit requests to two programs per month,
with only one to include an Age 3 - 6 program.

2 & 16 Identification of Common Missouri Trees
Saturday 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

14 Prairie Investigation (Home School Special)

Thursday 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
(Ages 7 - 12) Join us as we study one of Missouri's rapidly disappearing biomes, the prairie. We will study native prairie plants and animals and how they were used by Native Americans and pioneers. Please dress for the weather.
(Reservations begin September 1.)

20 Paper Making (Home School Special)

Wednesday 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
(Ages 7 - 14) We'll make and create art using recycled papers, dried seeds, flowers, and other natural materials.
(Reservations begin September 11.)

23 Paper Making

Saturday 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
(Families) We'll make and create art using recycled papers, dried seeds, flowers, and other natural materials.
(Reservations begin September 11.)



(Reservations begin August 30.)

17 Hawk Watch

Sunday 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
(Adults) We will be searching for migrating hawks as we learn about them. Please bring binoculars and dress for the weather.
(Reservations begin September 1.)



20 Eco Art

Wednesday 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
(Ages 9 - 12) We will create art using nature's own found art materials. Please bring a solid, light-colored bandanna or large square of material.
(Reservations begin September 1.)



26 Reptiles of Missouri

Tuesday
(Ages 3 - 6) 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
(Ages 7 - 12) 1:00 p.m.
Discover Missouri's fascinating reptiles! Learn what they are, how they live, and what they need to survive.
(Reservations begin September 12.)

(Adults) We will walk one of the trails identifying common trees and discuss their uses. Please dress for the weather.
(Reservations begin August 22 and September 5 respectively.)

6 Hike on Broken Ridge Trail

Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to observe the trees, wildflowers, and birds. (Reservations begin August 23.)

17 Fly Tying Demonstration

Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(All Ages) Tjaden Meyer will demonstrate the art of tying flies. He will discuss the tools of the trade and unique materials to create flies that should be hung on a wall, not on a hook.
(No reservations are required.)

20 Babes in the Woods

Wednesday 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 0 - 3 years) This program introduces nature's colors, smells, and touch to the very young.
(Reservations begin September 6.)

20 Hike on Hickory Ridge Trail

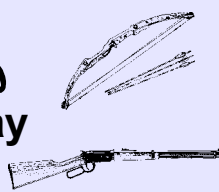
Wednesday 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(Adults) We will hike Hickory Ridge Trail to observe the trees, wildflowers, and birds. (Reservations begin September 6.)

22 Whooo's for Owls?

Friday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
(Ages 3 - 6) Owls are very special animals with very unique ways. We will begin with a wonderful book about baby owls and then look at what makes them special.
(Reservations begin September 8.)



Step Outside with Us National Hunting and Fishing Day



A large group of outdoor sportsmen involved in various firearms and archery hunting, fishing, dog handling, hiking, and camping, as well as other conservation organizations, will join the Missouri Department of Conservation to celebrate **National Hunting and Fishing Day**. Bring the family out Saturday, September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area and learn about various outdoor activities straight from the experts. The majority of the events will take place at the Busch Range and Lakes 31 and 32. For more information, contact the Busch Conservation Area at (636) 441 - 4554.

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!

Free nature films are shown every Saturday and Sunday. Children's films are shown 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Older audiences can enjoy films 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Call for titles at (314) 301-1500.

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area



SPIDER WEBS

A heavy morning dew touches all of nature, especially the fine, geometric threads of spider webs.

A spider builds its web by releasing six thin filaments from the rear of its body. The fine threads unite to form a strong, sticky, elastic line that can be used to trap a meal, build a home, hold eggs, or get from place to place.

Most of the spider webs you see are designed to catch prey. Orb webs are flat with support lines that radiate out from the center. Flying insects become ensnared in these webs and are quickly wrapped up by the spider in a cocoon of silk. The meal is eaten immediately or stored for later.

Spiders use their silken strings to help them get from place to place. Many spiders lay down a drag-line as they move about. The drag-line works like a mountain climber's rope, supporting the spider when it falls or jumps from a high place. Spiders also use their gossamer threads to fly. By spinning out several lines into the wind, young spiders can sail as high as 10,000 feet and travel several hundred miles.

Nature Notes



WALKING STICKS

Walking sticks belong to the family of Phasmatidae, which is Greek for "a ghost." Walking Sticks are ghostlike, for they often seem invisible when perched upon their lookalike - a twig. So complete is the mimicry that markings like the joints on twigs appear on the insect's body.

These insects spend most of their days sitting motionless in trees and foliage. Any movement could ruin the insect's disguise and make it a potential meal for a hungry bird. When the wind blows their bodies sway, like twigs would, with the trees. Just what you might expect from a ghost, Walking Sticks become most active in the evening. They feed on the leaves of trees, bushes, and other plants.

The two Walking Sticks found in the Midwest are the Northern Walking Stick and the Giant Walking Stick. The Giant is the long insect in North America reaching lengths of almost six inches.



BIRD MIGRATION

Why do birds migrate? The simple answer is because they can! The power of flight enables birds to travel places where they can survive the winter or successfully raise their young.

In winter, birds migrate south to areas where cold weather doesn't eliminate their food supply. In spring, they migrate back north again, where the longer summer days result in greater food production. Also, there are more daylight hours for food gathering.

There is great variation in the distances that birds migrate. Some kinds of birds don't migrate at all. For example, cardinals, chickadees, and woodpeckers can usually find food to survive the winter. The majority of our birds do migrate, often times to the warmth of the South American tropics where they find an abundance of insect food.

Among familiar land birds, barn swallows are the distance champions. Their breeding range extends north to Alaska and they winter as far south as the tip of South America - a 15,000 mile round trip!

**2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441 - 4554**

LOCATION:

From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS: Area is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. April 1 through September 30.

Area hours change October 1; the area will be open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. October 1 through February 28. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. and rental boats are available April 1 through September 30. Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

ABOUT THE AREA: 6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits, demonstration sites, and is used by bicyclists.

This bird was numerous in North America and bred in Missouri before pesticide contamination in the 1950s. Today, restoration efforts are underway.

What Is It?

Local News & Events

Teachers, Youth Leaders invited to The Outdoor Teacher



The Outdoor Teacher, a teacher and youth leader resource center near downtown Saint Louis, offers materials and ideas that can help you enrich virtually any outdoor activity with kids.

Located at the corner of 12th Street and Allen in the historic Soulard neighborhood, the resource center is packed with tons of exciting conservation lesson plans, books, and videos. Our Discovery Kits and Trunks include activities, arts materials, pelts, skulls, and complete teaching sets for teachers and youth leaders to use FREE!

The center is also an outpost for other Missouri Department of Conservation activities. You can get fishing and hunting licenses and the gift shop offers many unique items for the nature lover. Free Department publications are also available.

The Outdoor Teacher is open from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. On September 7 and 8, teachers and youth leaders are invited to visit the center from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. for our informal open house. We will have refreshments, door prizes, and tours of the center. Come down and bring a friend along.

For directions, information, or to R.S.V.P. for the open house, call (314) 231-3803.



Conservation Education Workshops

SHOW-ME CLASSROOMS

September 25 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Rockwoods Reservation

Credit: None

For more information, call (636) 458-2236.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM SEMINAR

September 26 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Teacher Resource Center

Credit: None

For more information, call (314) 231-3803.

Visit us on the Internet:
www.conservation.state.mo.us

Busch Range Henges Range

Hours for September 2000:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday - Monday

10:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Closed Wednesday

& Thursday

For more information, call
(636) 441 - 4554 ext. 251

Hours for September 2000:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday - Sunday

Closed Monday, Tuesday,

Special Events & Holidays

For more information,
call (636) 938 - 9548

Natural Events in September

- ❖ Tiger salamanders move to ponds in the rain.
- ❖ Jewelweed seedpods explode when touched.
- ❖ Freshwater jellyfish may be abundant in reservoirs.
- ❖ Beavers add sticks and mud to lodges for winter insulation.
- ❖ White-tailed deer breed now through November.
- ❖ Sassafras, sumac, and Virginia creeper show fall color.
- ❖ Early winter sparrows arrive.
- ❖ Acorns begin to fall; squirrels bury acorns and nuts for winter food.



Answer to "What Is It?"



Osprey
(*Pandion haliaetus*)

FOLLOW THE HERD TO....

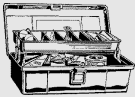
**PRAIRIE DAY**

Saturday, September 16
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Shaw Arboretum

See calendar page for more details.

Step Outside with Us**NATIONAL HUNTING
AND FISHING DAY**

Saturday, September 23
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Busch Conservation Area



See calendar page for more details.

Volunteer

Milestones

Thanks for all your effort and help!

Busch Conservation Area

Russ Anderson.....1,300 hours
 Dick Baumann.....300 hours
 Jim Goessling.....2,200 hours
 Lois Harrison.....300 hours
 Betty Tanner.....300 hours
 Larry Taylor.....500 hours

Rockwoods Reservation

Mary Demmitt.....300 hours
 Amber Edwards.....300 hours
 Glenda Myers.....1,100 hours
 John Schroeder.....500 hours
 Jim Westbury.....1,700 hours
 Meg Wilson.....150 hours

Powder Valley Nature Center

Bob Anderson.....1,600 hours
 Warene Anderson..2,800 hours
 Tom Bayer.....200 hours
 Lois Clay-Quest.....500 hours
 Bill Maass.....2,200 hours
 Rita Mueller.....200 hours
 George Rader.....1,800 hours
 Dale Rees.....1,600 hours
 Laurie Smith.....400 hours
 Ed Witte.....1,600 hours
 Marjorie Yamada....1,300 hours
 Ginie Young.....1,100 hours

